

Background and Summary: Amendments to the Rules of Procedure for the Juvenile Court and Related Rules

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The Supreme Court considered the Juvenile Rules Task Force rule petition, No. R-20-0044, at its December 7, 2021 Rules Agenda, and on December 8th, it entered its Order. The December 8th Order has now been posted on the Supreme Court's Rules webpage. You can review the 231-page Order by [clicking here](#).

Please note the first five pages of the December 8th Order. Those pages, among other things:

- Abrogate the current juvenile rules and associated forms, effective July 1, 2022
- Adopt the restyled rules, effective July 1, 2022
- Adopt new Rules 349, 350, and 419, as well as an amendment to Family Law Rule 43.1, on an emergency basis, effective July 1, 2022, and open those rules for public comments, which are due on May 1, 2022
- Approve forms and tables, as specified in the Order, effective July 1, 2022

(Current Rule 52.1, which the Task Force proposed and that became effective on September 1, 2021, was previously adopted by a [separate order](#).)

Note: At page 2 of the December 8th Order, these newly adopted provisions apply in all cases filed after July 1, 2022, and in cases pending as of that date, except to the extent that the court in a pending action determines that applying the new provision “would be infeasible or work an injustice, in which event the former rule or procedure applies.”

There are 128 new rules in the new set, plus 9 new forms. Here is an overview of the changes:

1. Organization. The new rules are organized into 6 parts:

Part I: General Provisions

Part II: Delinquency

Part III: Child Dependency and Guardianship, Termination of Parental Rights

Part IV: Adoptions

Part V: Emancipation

Part VI: Appeals

The current rules have one or two digit numbers, and sometimes a number to the right of the decimal. By comparison, the new rules have whole three-digit numbers, i.e., there are no numbers to the right of a decimal point. The first of the three digits describes the part in which the rule appears, that is, the General Provisions in Part I are numbered 101 through 114, the Delinquency provisions in Part II are numbered 201 through 227, and so on.

2. Restyling. Each rule has been restyled. Restyling includes the addition of section and subpart titles to make these rules easier to navigate and comprehend. The content of the rules has been clarified by improved language and organization, and many more terms have been defined. Within each major part, rules have been re-sequenced so that the rules appear in the new set in the order in which proceedings are likely to occur.
3. New subjects. There are a variety of rules addressing new subject areas. For example, there are new rules on serving documents after service of the case-initiating document; virtual proceedings and declared emergencies; intervention; change of venue; altering or amending a final order; transfer to a tribal court; and simultaneous dependency and legal decision-making/parenting time proceedings. The rules noted above that are open for public comment are 349, on revocation of a permanent guardianship; 350 on reunification services when a dependency petition is filed during a permanent guardianship; and 419, which concerns a notice of completed adoption.
4. Consolidation and separation. The 15 current rules on emancipation have been consolidated into 5 rules. The current rules for appeal (Rules 103 through 108) are now Rules 601 to 610. Among other things, these new rules specify which orders are final and appealable. The new rules on appeals also include provisions for time-extending motions.
5. Forms. Current forms 1, 1A, 2, and 3, which are notices to parents, will be replaced by new forms 1, 2, 3, and 4. Current form 5, which is a sample notice of appeal, will be replaced by two separate notices of appeal: one for delinquency appeals, and the other for appeals in all other juvenile case types.

The Task Force requested the July 1, 2022 effective date to allow for training for judicial officers and court staff.